(b) Government are alert to all development that have a bearing on India's security and will take necessary steps to counter any threat.

Acquiring of Frigates by Pakistan from West Germany

1600. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reported move of Pakistan to acquire frigates from West Germany; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Government are aware of reports to this effect.

(b) Government are keeping a constant watch on all such developments which have a bearing on the country's security.

Import of life saving essential equipment

1601. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in order to import life saving essential equipment no less than five Government agencies have to be approached for a permit;

(b) whether Government propose to change the procedure and have one window where permits can be obtained; and

(c) if so, when a decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) to (c) Most of the life-saving equipments are allowed for import under Open General Licence i.e. without an import licence *vide* List 2 of Appendix 6 of the Import-Export Policy for the period April 1985—March 1988 and as per Item 33 of Appendix 6 of the Policy, these life-saving equipments and their spares can be imported by all persons (under OGL). However, equipments not covered by OGL provisions can be imported on *ad hoc* licence and applications for such licences are considered by the office of CCI&E and decided expeditiously provided they are recommended by Director of Medical Services/Medical educations of the concerned State.

Merging of Northern areas of Pakistan with Pak-occupied Kashmir

1602. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the reported Pak move to merge its northern areas with Pak-occupied Kashmir; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) Government are aware of efforts in Pakistan to alter the status of territories forming a part of Pak-occupied Kashmir.

We have repeatedly conveyed to Pakistan tha it has no *locus standi* in POK which is an integral part of India and that the only issue which remains to be resolved is the vacation of Indian territory under Pakistan's illegal occupation.

Setting up of a restaurant in London by ITDC

1603. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Managing Director of ITDC had signed a collaboration agreement with a London-based unknown firm owned by a NRI in October, 1984 for setting up a Restaurant in London;

(b) whether such agreements are used as a convenient mode of securing loans from the Indian banks; and

(c) what progress has been made so far under the said agreements and what safeguards are used by the ITDC against misuse of such agreements?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (MUFTI MOHD. SAYEED): (a) On behalf of ITDC, Sr. Vice President (Hotels) had signed an agreement with Frontier of Indai Limited (FIL), a registered company in London under the laws of United Kingdom for providing technical consultancy and managerial services for setting up a Speciality Indian Restaurant in London. No financial participation by ITDC was envisaged in the agreement.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) For want of a suitable site, no consultancy services have been rendered by ITDC under the agreement with Frontier of India Limited (FIL).

Reopening of Akbar Hotel, New Delhi

1604. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering the re-opening of ITDC's Akbar Hotel, New Delhi to mitigate the growing demand of the tourist traffic in the Capital;

(b whether the lease agreement of Akbar Hotel has been transferred to the Ministry of External Affairs by NDMC/Government without compensating the cost of investment made by ITDC; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, what is the justification therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (MUFTI MOHD. SAYEED): (a) The Ministry of Tourism had requested the Ministry of External Affairs for transfer of Akbar Hotel back to ITDC. However, Ministry of External Affairs has expressed its inability to vacate Akbar Hotel for the present.

(b) The Draft Lease Agreement is in the process of being finalised by the concerned Ministries. ITDC has preferred claims for compensation so far to the Ministry of External Affairs for Rs. 2558.58 lakhs and Rs. 3650 lakhs.

(c) Does not arise.

Introduction of 'Product Liability Insurance Scheme' by the US Administration

1605. SHRI N. E BALARAM:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the US Administration has introduced a 'Product Liability Insurance Scheme' whereby Indan companies have to pay eight dollars per tyre against an earlier rate of 80 cents;

(b) if so, whether this discriminatory action is for avenging Indian overnment's claims on Union Carbide bide case;

(c) whether Government have taken up the matter with the US Administration; and

(d) if so, with what resuls?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) The US Administration has introduced product liability insurance on certain products including tyres marketed in USA irrespective of the country of manufacture which has resulted in an increase in the premium rates.

(b) No, Sir.